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Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-16 and 19 are rejected. Claims 17-18 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The limitations of allowable claim 17 and intervening claims have been included in independent claim 1.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account <u>50-0749</u>.

Respectfully submitted, Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories, Inc.

By /Dirk Brinkman/

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